

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 EB-07 TRSE-00 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IGA-02 OMB-01 /051 W

----- 076942

R 061414Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1849

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO CINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0901

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS HA

SUBJ: CHANGES IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM: HAITI

REF: STATE 51768 (DTG 031747Z MAR 76)

1. FOLLOWING ARE CT'S REPLIES TO SUBPARAS A-F, PARA 5
REFTEL:

A. INITIAL REACTION OF GOH MAY BE SIMPLE CONFUSION SINCE
HAITI'S SMALL (\$200,000) MAP-T PROGRAM IS JUST GOING THROUGH
ITS OPERATIONAL BIRTH PANGS DURING THIS FY, AND HAS YET TO GO
INTO FULL GEAR. HOWEVER, HAITIAN LEADERS ARE GENERALLY
AWARE OF INTENSIVE CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY OF US MILITARY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WORLDWIDE ON COST AND POLICY GROUNDS.
THEREFORE WE ASSUME THEY WOULD UNDERSTAND REASON FOR NEW
REQUIREMENT TO ELIMINATE "HIDDEN SUBSIDIES" IN FMTP COST
CALCULATIONS, HOWEVER MUCH THEY MIGHT DISLIKE HAVING USG
SEEMINGLY REDUCE DOLLAR VALUE OF HAITI'S VERY MODEST MAP-T
PROGRAM ESTABLISHED JUST LAST YEAR.

B. GOH PREFERS BASIC INFANTRY AND ARMS COURSES, WHICH
WE HAVE ALREADY EXCLUDED FROM MAP-5 FOR POLICY REASONS.
HAITI'S MAP-T PROGRAM THEREFORE ESSENTIALLY REFLECTS US
POLICY PREFERENCE FOR SEA AND AIR RESCUE, AIDS TO NAVIGATION,
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AND MISCELLANEOUS COURSES AIMED AT HELPING REESTABLISH

ADEQUATE LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM THROUGHOUT HAITIAN ARMED FORCES. HAITIAN MILITARY PROFESSIONALISM TOO BAD NOSEDIVE DURI

1960'S AS RESULT OF FORCED EXODUS OF CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF QUALIFIED OFFICERS AND NETHER PERSONNEL, WITHDRAWAL OF US MILITARY TRAINING MISSION IN 1963, AND CLOSING OF HAITIAN MILITARY ACADEMY. ASIDE FROM MILITARY ACADEMY, WHICH REOPENED 1971, AND NASCENT MAP-T PROGRAM, HAITIAN ARMED FORCES HAS BENEFITTED SINCE FROM ONLY A FEW COMMERCIAL, AND ONE MINOR FMS CASH, TRAINING PROGRAMS (FMS CASE #HA-TAA-P4). SINCE GOH HAS PAID ONLY FOR COMMERCIAL TRAINING RELATED TO MILITARY EQUIPMENT PURCHASES, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT IT WOULD TRY TO MAKE UP THE SHORT-FALL CAUSED BY MAP-T UPWARD COST CALCULATIONS. WE PREDICT THAT THE TRAINING COMPONENT PRUNED OUT OF THE MAP-T PROGRAM DUE TO HIGH COSTS WILL SIMPLY BE LOST.

C. AS EXPLAINED PARAS A & B, MAP-T PRGRAM ALREADY GEARED MAINLY TO US INTERESTS OVER HAITIAN FIRST PREFERENCES. IF COSTS DOUBLE, IT IS LIKELY THAT GOH RELUCTANTLY WILL SCALE DOWN PROGRAM PROPORTIONATELY, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD ENCOURAGE IT TO SUPPLEMENT THE \$200,000 GRANT WITH ITS OWN FUNDS.

D. SEE PARAS B & C.

3. UNLIKELY THAT HAITI WILL WISH OR BE ABLE TO OBTAIN EQUIVALENT TRAINING ELSEWHERE. FRANCE IS MOST PLAUSIBLE ALTERNATIVE, BUT FRENCH EMBASSY DISCOURAGES FRENCH MILITARY TRAINING ROPD. MAP-T CUTS WOULD HAVE A JOLTING IMPACT ON SAR-RELATED HAITIAN MILITARY TRAINING, EVEN THOUGH

MAP-T PROGRAM IS SMALL, AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY THE CUTS WOULD BE A BACKWARD STEP FURTHER DELAYING US EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE THE HAITIAN ARMED FORCES AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR PROFESSIONALISM AND OUTLOOK. THE IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS COULD ONLY BE NEGATIVE.

F. HAITIAN LEADERS HAVE SOME APPRECIATION FOR CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES THAT ARE AFFECTING ALL FMTP PLANNING.(\$,9,35#3)3*6 THEY WOULD WORRY ABOUT THE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN REACTION TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE NEWS THAT THE US, HAVING RESUMED MAP-T FOR HAITI AFTER REFUSING TO DO SO FOR YEARS, HAD ABRUPTLY CANCELLED HAITI'S NEW PROGRAM. FOR THAT REASON ALONE THEY WOULD BE MOST SENSITIVE TO ANY APPEARANCE OF DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT FOR HAITI COMPARED WITH OTHER CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES CURRENTLY BENEFITTING FROM MAP-T PROGRAMS. ASIDE FROM THIS OVERRIDING POLITICAL FACTOR, THE CANCELLATION OF HAITI'S MAP-T PROGRAM WOULD TORPEDO THE US EFFORT TO ENABLE

HAITI TO HANDLE HER OWN SAR NEEDS, TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN LONG
NEGLECTED NAVIGATIONAL AIDS IN HAPH KRITERS, AND TO IMPROVE
THE ORIENTATION OF THE HAITIAN ARMED FORCES TOWARD THE US.

2. RECOMMENDATION: WE STRONGLY URGE THE CONTINUATION
OF MAP-T PROGRAM FOR HAITI, AND HOPE THAT WAYS CAN BE
FOUND TO CUSHION THE DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE IMPACT OF
THE HIGHER MAP-T COSTS ON THIS LIMITED PROGRAM WHOSE
BENEFITS ARE JUST BEGINNING TO ACCRUE TO US.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY TRAINING, POLICIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTA00901
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760129-0714
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760492/aaaadbpd.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 51768
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANGES IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM: HAITI
TAGS: MASS, HA, US
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006